

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 4 is requested to be cancelled.

Claims 1, 5, 10, 16 and 17 are currently being amended.

No claims have been added.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-3 and 5-17 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-14. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations from claim 4, which has been cancelled. Independent claims 16 and 17 have been amended to include corresponding limitations from claim 4. Claim 10 has been amended to be in independent form. Thus independent claims 1, 10, 16 and 17 are all believed to be in *prima facie* condition for allowance. The remaining dependent claims ultimately depend from claim 1 or claim 10 and are therefore also in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication. 2002/0129643 to Yamaguchi et al. ("Yamaguchi"). Applicants submit that this rejection is moot in light of the amendments to independent claims 1, 16 and 17 (claims 2-3 and 15 depend from claim 1) to include subject matter indicated as allowable, as discussed above.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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